

SOUTH CAROLINA.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

INHABITANTS OF BARNWELL DISTRICT, IN S. C.

REMONSTRATING AGAINST

ANY ADDITIONAL DUTIES ON

IMPORTED WOOLLEN GOODS.

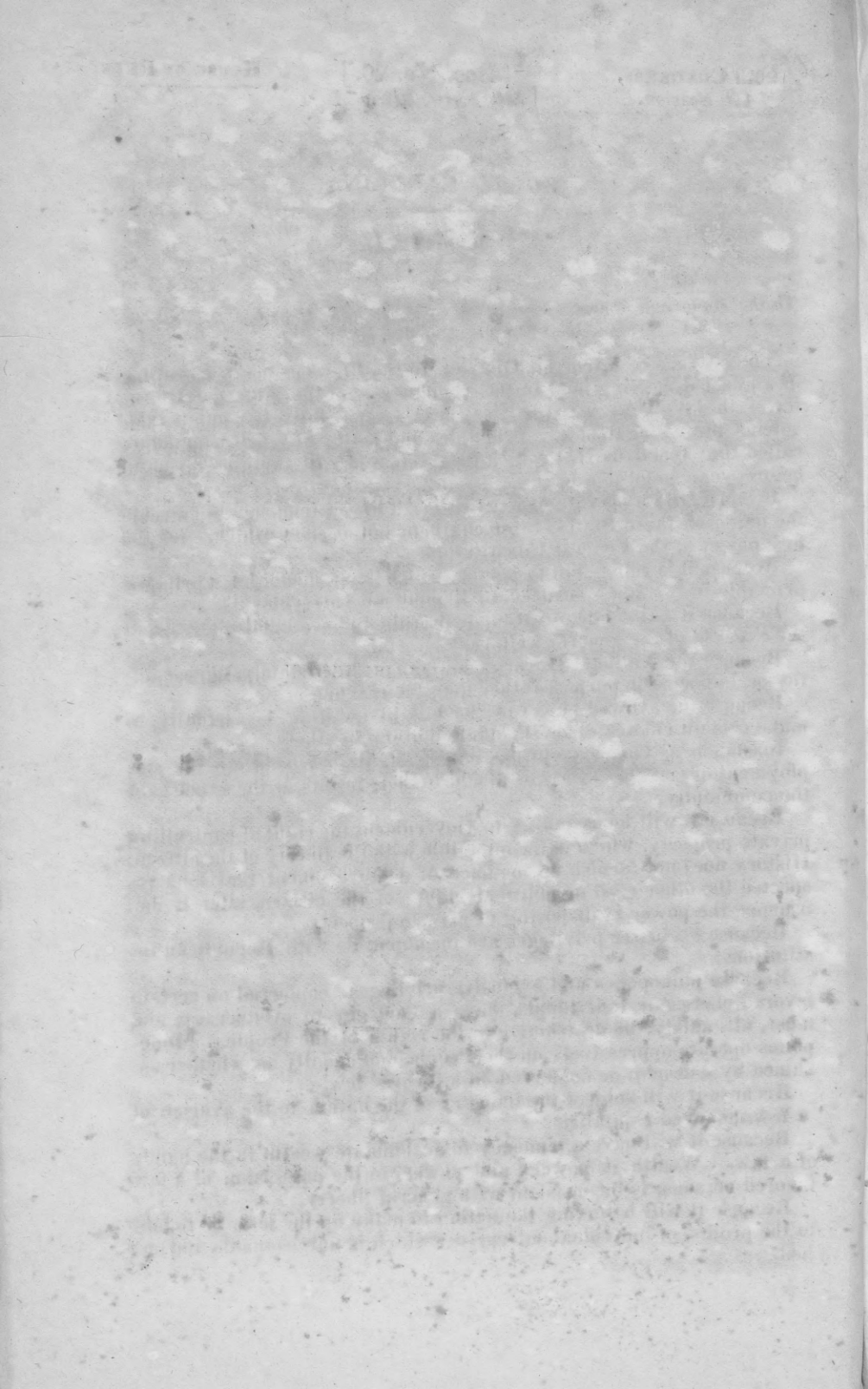
DECEMBER 24, 1827.

Referred to the Committee on Manufactures.

WASHINGTON:

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1827.



MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the members of the Senate and House of Representatives, in Congress assembled :

The citizens of Barnwell District, in the State of South Carolina, in a general meeting held in the Courthouse of the said District, on the sixth day of August, 1827, ask leave respectfully to submit their solemn protest against the principles and policy of a bill, commonly called the Woollens Bill, which has been, and will again be, brought before your honorable bodies :

Because, in its operation, it will have a direct tendency to enfeeble the union of these States, to strengthen and perfect which, was the first object of the Federal Constitution.

Because it is repugnant to justice, which is, or should be, a primary principle in the administration of Republican Governments.

Because it is intended to promote private and sectional interests, at the expense of the general welfare.

Because the National Government cannot, legitimately, impose duties on imports for purposes other than for revenue.

Because the avowed object of the bill in question is virtually to make certain classes of the People tributary to others:

Inasmuch as Government has not the right to encourage the employment of certain classes or to add to their profits at the expense of the community.

Because it will be assuming to Government the right of controlling private property, which is incompatible with the liberty of the citizen. History does not furnish an instance of a Government that long respected the other civil or political rights of the citizen, after it had usurped the power of disposing of private property.

Because exclusive privileges are incompatible with Republican institutions.

Because monopolies and exclusive privileges, conferred on certain favored classes or individuals, have a tendency to aristocracy, and must, ultimately, be destructive to the rights of the People. Monopolies operate oppressively on the People, and equally so, whether assumed by a despot, or conferred on a favored few.

Because it will subject the industry of the nation to the avarice of a few moneyed capitalists.

Because it will have a tendency to accumulate wealth in the hands of a few. Wealth is power; and power, in the possession of a few favored persons, is inconsistent with general liberty.

Because it will be taxing the nation to make up the loss, or to add to the profits, of individual enterprise; which is unreasonable and unjust.

Because it will tend to diminish the revenue, and increase smuggling.

Because it will operate injuriously and oppressively on the interests of agriculture, already depressed, for the benefit of manufactures, who are now realizing a reasonable profit; and who, in their memorials on the subject, to your honorable bodies, at the last Session, did not ask an increase of duties, but only solicited more security and certainty in the collection of duties already imposed.

Because it is tyrannical and unjust to compel the citizen to purchase, in a particular market, when he can obtain the same articles on better terms in another. Tyranny, whether exercised by a monarchy, an aristocracy, or democracy, is the same.

Because agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and navigation, the four pillars of our prosperity, are (in the words of Jefferson) the most thriving when left to individual enterprise.

Because it will operate oppressively on the poorer classes of community, while the rich will, in a great measure, be exempt from its influence.

Because it will have the effect of creating and perpetuating geographical distinctions, and of placing local in opposition to general interests. And

Because we regard it as the commencement of a system of legislation (improperly called the American system) which, if persevered in, will, at no distant period, endanger the Union of these States.

D. PEEHLES, *Chairman.*

F. J. HAY, *Secretary.*